

PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 440508/PALL

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

HOU et al.

Art Unit: Unassigned

Application No. Unassigned

Examiner: Unassigned

Filed: Herewith

For: NEGATIVELY CHARGED MEMBRANE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified patent application, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks. Pages showing the requested changes are attached. The amendments indicated herein apply to the claims present at the conclusion of the international phase of the PCT application.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Replace paragraph 1 with:

This application is a 35 U.S.C. § 371 of PCT/US00/04745, filed on February 25, 2000, which claims priority of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/121,668, filed on February 25, 1999, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the indicated claims with:

3. (Amended) The negatively charged microporous membrane of claim 1, wherein the N-(hydroxyalkyl)- or N-(alkoxyalkyl)- acrylamide includes an alkyl group of 4 carbon atoms or less.

4. (Amended) The negatively charged microporous membrane of claim 1, wherein the crosslinked coating includes a hydroxyl-rich material.

6. (Amended) The negatively charged microporous membrane of claim 1, wherein said negatively charged group is a sulfonic or carboxylic acid.

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